THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to information received from the State Government of Gujarat, the number of accidents which took place in the State during the last three years is as under :-

	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
1993-94	197	16167	16364
1994-95	202	15489	15691
1995-96	176	16117	16293

(b) to (d) Safety measures required to be taken to check occurance of accidents have been laid down in the Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules framed thereunder. All industrial establishments are required to follow the same. In addition, the Governments of Gujarat have amended the Gujarat Factories Rules, 1963 in the year 1995. These rules provide all the adequate safety measures for prevention of accidenrts and health and safety of workers. Training programmes and National Safety Day are arranged for industrial workers to create safety awareness. All the fatal accidents are inquired by the Senior Officers of the Directorate of Factories of the State Government of Gujarat and adequate safety measures are suggested for prevention of such accidents. Mock drills and on-site emergency plan, rehearsals etc. are arranged to meet any emergency. The compensation to the labourers injured during the accidents is paid as per the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

[Translation]

On-going Construction Work of Over Bridge

4068. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the on-going construction work of overbridge on Hardoi-Sitapur road in Hardoi city has been abandoned for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in construction of said overbridge;

(c) the estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Railway's portion of work has been substantially completed, State Government is yet to execute work on approaches.

(c) Total Estimated Cost Rs. 4.13 crore Railway's share Rs. 1.92 crore and State Governments share Rs. 2.21 crore Expenditure incurred by Railway so far Rs. 1.09 crore.

(d) Depends upon completion of work on approaches by State Government.

[English]

Telephone Services in Allahabad

4069. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Allahabad district which have been provided with telephone services;

(b) whether a large number of these rural telephones are not in working order;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received in 1996; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the working of telephones particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of villages in Allahabad district with telephone facilities is 877.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 195.

(d) The steps being taken to improve services in rural areas are as follows :—

(1) Reliable media is being provided to replace overhead media for rendering STD service.

(2) Annual Maintenance Contract has been signed with manufacturers for providing proper maintenance of MARR systems.

(3) One Sub-Divisional Engineer is being posted in every Tehsil Head-quarters.

(4) Routine testing is being done regularly under the direct control of Divisional Engineer (Rural).

(5) Higher capacity batteries are being provided in the villages of Allahabad district as the systems are affected by heavy power cuts, around 12 hours daily.

[Translation]

Decrease in Facilities

4070. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether facilities for the common passengers are decreasing despite introducing fast and long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether there are a few general coaches attached to fast and superfast trains and there is shortage of reserved coaches and absence of medical and catering facilities in a number of trains all add to the sufferings of common passengers;